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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01254 052104Z

16
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 OMB-01 /128 W
---------- 027681
R 052045Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5676

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1254

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PFOR TD
SUBJECT: POLITICAL NERVOUSNESS

1. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MEETING ON OTHER BUSINESS (SEPTEL) MINISTER IN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CUTHBERT JOSEPH ENQUIRED WHAT REACTION I WAS GETTING FROM WASHINGTON REGARDING PRIME MINISTERS'S DECLARED INTENTION TO STEP DOWN AS PNM LEADER (AND PRIME MINISTER). I REPLIED THAT WE CONSIDERED MATTER STRICTLY AS AN INTERNAL AFFAIR OF T&T, AND STRICTLY SPEAKING SO FAR THAT OF PNM. WE WERE, HOWEVER, FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. PRESSED FOR FURTHER COMMENT, I SAID THAT THE USG WAS INTERESTED IN SEEING A STABLE GOVERNMENT IN T&T. HENCE THIS CHANGE AND ANY TRANSITIONAL PERIOD WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO US, AS WOULD ANY CHANGE IN GOTT'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENT OF CARICOM. JOSEPH DECLARED CARICOM PLANS WERE SET TO GO FORWARD AND WOULD NOT BE INFLUENCED BY DEPARTURE OF DR. WILLIAMS FROM T&T POLITICAL SCENE. JOSEPH ADDED, PHILOSOPHICALLY, THAT "WE ALL HAVE OUR CRISES".

2. COMMENT: A LONG-TIME PROTEGE OF WILLIAMS, JOSEPH PERSONALLY MUST FEEL POLITICALLY EXPOSED BY PROSPECTIVE DEPARTURE OF HIS MENTOR. IN LARGER SENSE, HOWEVER, HIS REMARKS REFLECT GOTT'S NEED FOR REASSURANCE AT A TIME OF "CRISIS". GIVEN PAST CRITICISM BY GOTT OF US "INTER-
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PAGE 02 PORT O 01254 052104Z

FERENCE", I LIMITED MY REMARKS LARGELY TO A FEW PLATITUDES

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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AND SMILES. DURING THIS TRANSITIONAL PHASE I CONSIDER
CONTINUANCE OF OUR LOW PROFILE STANCE PRUDENT AND MOST
LIKELY TO BE PRODUCTIVE.
MARSHALL

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NNN

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS MARSHALL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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